

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response to Non-Final Office Action is being submitted in response to the non-final Office Action mailed April 3, 2006. Claims 1-18 are pending in the Application. Claims 1 and 11 are the independent claims.

Claims 3, 4, 6, 8, 12, 13, 15, 17, and 18 are objected to for containing various informalities. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Claims 1-9 and 11-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Taniguchi (USP 6,122,250).

Claims 10 and 18 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the applicable base claim and any intervening claims.

In response to the above objections and rejections, Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-8, 11-13, and 15-17 have been amended to further clarify the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention and Claims 9, 10, and 18 have been canceled. These amendments are fully supported in the Specification, Drawings, and Claims of the Application and no new matter has been added. Based upon the amendments, reconsideration of the Application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Objection to Claims 3, 4, 6, 8, 12, 13, 15, 17, and 18:

Claims 3, 4, 6, 8, 12, 13, 15, 17, and 18 are objected to for containing various informalities.

Claims 3, 4, 12, and 13 have been amended to remove the term “and/or,” which has been replaced with the term “and” or “or,” as appropriate.

Claims 6 and 15 have been amended to remove the term “connection(s),” which has been replaced with the term “connection” or “connections,” as appropriate.

Claims 8 and 17 have been amended to remove the term “capable of,” which has been replaced with the term “operable for.”

Claim 18 has been canceled.

Rejection of Claims 1-18 Under 35 U.S.C. 112, Second Paragraph:

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to remove the limitation “the first ring network,” which has been replaced with the term “the ring network.”

Claims 7 and 16 have been amended to remove the limitation “the configuration message,” which has been replaced with the term “the connection state message.”

Claims 10 and 18 have been canceled.

Therefore, Applicants submit that the rejection of Claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention has now been overcome and respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 1-9 and 11-17 Under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) –Taniguchi:

Claims 1-9 and 11-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Taniguchi (USP 6,122,250).

Claims 10 and 18 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the applicable base claim and any intervening claims.

The limitations of otherwise-allowable Claims 10 and 18 have been incorporated into independent Claims 1 and 11, with the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, being addressed.

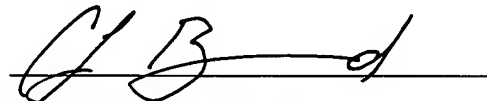
Therefore, Applicants submit that the rejection of Claims 1-9 and 11-17 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Taniguchi has now been overcome and respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants would like to thank Examiner for the attention and consideration accorded the present Application. Should Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place the Application in condition for allowance, Examiner is encouraged to contact undersigned Counsel at the telephone number, facsimile number, address, or email address provided below. It is not believed that any fees for additional claims, extensions of time, or the like are required beyond those that may otherwise be indicated in the documents accompanying this paper. However, if such additional fees are required, Examiner is encouraged to notify undersigned Counsel at Examiner's earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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